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BOOK NOTICES

A Prophet of the Spirit: A Sketch of the Character and Work of Jeremiah. By Lindsay B. Longacre. New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1917. Pp. 128. \$0.75.

The personality of Jeremiah has exercised the strongest fascination over recent students of prophecy. Professor Longacre seeks with admirable success to extend the spell through a wider circle of readers. A preliminary chapter on the literary history of the book leads to a study of "The Man His Neighbours Knew," and with this key in our hands we pass through his various struggles with king and people, and no less with himself and his God, till we emerge to the clear sunshine of the New Covenant of spirit and life. Professor Longacre has a fine sense of the richness of Jeremiah's nature: his poetic imagination and warm human sympathies, his "open eyes and loving heart", his unflinching courage and patriotism. In these latter respects he is fittingly associated with Elijah as the prophetic prototype of Jesus. "But the traits in Jeremiah which give him the highest place and the most enduring fame are not those which he shares with Elijah. More nearly than any other Old Testament character he embodies the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount. He shows, in anticipation, the spirit of Jesus" (p. 120).

Good Ministers of Jesus Christ. By William Fraser McDowell. New York: Abingdon Press, 1917. Pp. 307. \$1.25.

To undertake the Yale Lectures is no light task. Bishop McDowell has contributed a book of permanent value to the series. As the title suggests, the theme gathers constantly around the ministry of Jesus as the definition of the aim and spirit of the modern preacher's business. There are eight lectures, as usual, and each has a key word, in the following order: Revelation, redemption, incarnation, reconciliation, rescue, conservation, co-operation, and inspiration. One is struck by the modern accent in this. The chapter on "The Ministry of Incarnation" reminds one of the illuminating little book by Albert J. Lyman, entitled *Preaching in the New Age: an Art and an Incarnation*. Bishop McDowell is, in our judgment, strongest in his chapters on redemption and rescue, as doubtless he would be. The terseness and beauty of the style is an outstanding feature of the lectures. From almost every page it is possible to quote some sentence which drives home and sticks in a remarkable way. "To have refused the cross at last, after having carried it all the rest of the way, would have broken the unity of his whole life." "The solitary virtue of preaching does

not thrive apart from the virtue of human interest." "Casting out devils is not a nice business." "It takes a big motive to float a ministry that is doing anything." "If you want to stretch what brains you have, try preaching Christ." Such sentences as these are typical of the style of Bishop McDowell. The book is carefully printed and well made. The turn in the subject at the top of page 181 calls for a paragraph, but the text is remarkably legible and free from errors.

Jesus: for the Men of Today. By George Holley Gilbert. New York: Doran, 1917. Pp. 176. \$1.00.

In this short report of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, Dr. Gilbert has attempted to give the realities of which he is conscious in the story. It is in accordance with his positions made familiar in his *Jesus* and omits necessarily many items that are essentially involved in the records of the four Gospels. It reveals the human and lovely character of Jesus with the power of a poet's interpretation; it discloses the soul of the writer as well, and the vision is most beautiful. To those who are not in agreement with Dr. Gilbert's critical and theological positions the book will seem exceedingly inadequate; the difference between Socrates and Jesus will not be sufficiently clear. To those who have come to the point of discarding the miraculous and also thereby rejecting Jesus, the book will be a revelation of the power and reality of Jesus, independent of these items. The book must have been written originally more or less in blank verse or else the writer unconsciously pens prose that admits scanning. We were charmed by this for the first half of the book; but we found that it divided our interest in the subject, and we caught ourselves scanning instead of understanding the fluent sentences.

The White Queen of Okoyong. By W. P. Livingstone. New York: Doran, 1917. Pp. xiv+208. \$1.00.

This is the life of Mary Slessor, of Calabar, told in simple and vivid style by the author of the longer biography. Mary Slessor was a woman of remarkable power and the record of her life is full of heroism and romance. This book ought to fire the imagination and direct the activities of boys and girls until they shall become in turn such workmen as Mary Slessor was in the realm of unselfish service. We commend the volume for the fireside and the libraries of our young people.